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MERCED RESIDENT RECEIVES 78-MONTH PRISON SENTENCE
FOR POSSESSING IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that JEREMIAH LEE SMEDLEY, 25, formerly of Merced, California, was sentenced by United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to a prison term of 78 months to be followed by a term of supervised release of 120 months. He will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to children and the Internet will be restricted during that time.

The case was the result of a joint investigation by representatives of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, and the Fresno Office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, with assistance from the City of Merced, California, Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David L. Gappa, who prosecuted the case, court documents identified SMEDLEY, on May 14, 2005, as the individual making available for sharing over the Gnutella peer-to-peer file sharing network, numerous images of known child pornography. He admitted in a plea agreement that on July 25, 2005, he knowingly possessed more than 600 images of child pornography, in video and still formats, and that many of the images were of prepubescent minors as well as depictions of minors engaged in sadistic, masochistic, or other violent conduct. In addition, SMEDLEY told investigating agents that he had engaged in sexually explicit chats with at least four minor females in the two months prior to his arrest.

SMEDLEY has been in custody since his guilty plea on August 21, 2006.

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